

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 1984 the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) and myself were elected to Congress from adjoining districts. He started out sleeping in his congressional office, and I started out picketing then-majority leader Jim Wright, which the gentleman from Texas helped me do. He went on to become conference chairman of the Republican Conference and when the Republicans became the majority, majority leader.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) is a man of big ideas. It was his bill that began to streamline our military base positions in this country. He is also a supporter of school vouchers and flat taxes. He came from can-do North Dakota, and he brags about that even though he now lives in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) did come, he did do. I say well done to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY).

REJECT RECOMMENDATIONS OF SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, there are three good reasons we should reject the recent recommendations of the Social Security commission, this commission that has said that we should move in the direction of privatizing Social Security.

The first is the commission was stacked with individuals who had a preconceived notion of the outcome. Second, the commission recommends private accounts but does not take into consideration the cost. Many observers believe converting Social Security to private accounts would cost \$1 trillion. Where is that money to come from? Out of Social Security, of course.

And finally, private accounts invested in the market are risky investments. We only need to look at our recent downturn to see how risky these investments are. Are we going to throw people out on the streets in their golden years because they have lost their retirements in the market? I certainly hope not.

COMFORT THE KIDS

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of two Arizona families, the Porter family and the Rogers family. Following the September 11 attacks, Steve and Liz Porter and Todd and Mikki Rogers wanted to help those affected by the tragedies.

Together, these two families created a project called Comfort the Kids.

Their goal was lofty, to create 10,000 small red, white and blue quilts for the children who have suffered family losses by the end of the year. They were not alone in their efforts. Their Web site, www.ComforTheKids.org, is currently receiving an average of one hit per minute. School districts, Boy Scouts and countless other families and individuals are joining them in their efforts. These quilts will not only comfort the recipient, but will serve as a hand-made symbol of compassion. I thank the Porter family and the Rogers family for their diligence and hard work, and commend them for their efforts. They represent the best of America.

SAVE AMERICAN STEEL INDUSTRY

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today steelworkers from across the United States have come to Washington to ask our House to recognize their plight and the plight of U.S. Steel. Today the United States steel industry is faltering and in danger of collapse. Tens of thousands of men and women who have helped to secure the defense of this country through their work in creating and making this product called steel are in danger of losing their jobs and having their whole way of life be destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for this country to ask itself whether or not it is in our national interest and in the interest of our national defense to maintain our steel industry; or shall we become dependent on foreign steel, the same way we are dependent on foreign oil.

This House will have an opportunity before we complete our business to address the issues, to give the steelworkers some relief, to make it possible for steel loan guarantees to be more widely applicable, to give an opportunity for net operating loss to put cash into steel companies so they can keep going. This Congress has an obligation to carry forth for the future of this country our ability to make steel.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Members are again reminded not to characterize the actions of the Senate.

CALLING FOR LEGISLATION TO AID THE STEEL INDUSTRY

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues have talked about before

we go home, we must pass a stimulus package. I agree that we cannot go home without doing something for the people who have lost their jobs as a result of the recession and the attack on our country. And we must do something for the steelworkers so they do not become part of the people collecting unemployment insurance in our community. We have to protect the retirees for the health benefits that they are currently receiving.

We need to do this because the price of steel in this country is below cost, international cost, because our trade policies have allowed dumped, subsidized steel to come into the United States. Our own trade policy has reduced capacity so we have what is known as legacy cost, high cost for the steel industry for retirees.

This House, this body, must pass legislation helping the steel industry before we leave town. It is our responsibility to do it. We must create a level playing field. If we do, steel in the United States can compete with steel produced anywhere in the world on quality and cost. Yes, we must pass legislation before we go home.

STILL NO RESPONSE FROM THE SENATE ON ECONOMIC SECURITY

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have passed an economic security package to create new jobs and help unemployed workers. But the stalling economy continues to be in jeopardy because of the legislative process which continues to stall economic security legislation.

What are we waiting for? A stock market crash? Two-dollar-per-gallon gasoline? The failure to prepare and respond with sound initiatives to aid the economy indicates a disturbing disconnect between the elected officials and the state of the union.

The unemployment rate rose to its highest level in 6 years. Yet the leadership in Congress is constructing roadblocks and sitting on legislation to get the economy out of recession. More Americans lost their jobs last month, yet the legislative process refuses to respond with a plan of recovery.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to get the economic security act moving. It is time to get serious and match the House's work.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAMILY LIFE

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a wonderful organization named Family Life. Since